



The TURNTABLE

June 2013

NEWSLETTER FOR THE PAID & VOLUNTEER STAFF OF RAILTOWN 1897 STATE HISTORIC PARK

Upcoming Events

June 4 @ 11:30 am
Ladies Luncheon
Papa's Roost
Call Marge @ 533-4595

June 13 @ 7 pm
Dave Connery speaking
About the Angels Branch
At the County Library in
Sonora

June 16
The No. 3 will be running
for Father's Day with
entertainment and
Belgian Chocolate for
Dad! Country and Cow-
boy singer Keith Kee-
nom will entertain on
board

July 2 @ 11:30 am
Ladies Luncheon at
The Rock in Twain Harte
Call Marge @ 533-4595

July 4,5,6,7
Four days of steam
excursion trains with
entertainment on board.
Starlight Serenaders
under the tulip tree
Saturday, Noon-3 pm

July 20 6-9 pm
Spotlight on Railtown
Fundraiser

July 27
Rods To Rails Event
Add 4:30 pm train

August 3
4th Annual Singing Rails
Music Festival featuring
Sourdough Slim and
Red Dog Ash plus a
Music competition with
Categories in vocal,
Guitar, fiddle, banjo,
Mandolin and miscella-
neous



Historical Significance and the National Register

An Interview with Mark Bassett, Director of the Nevada Northern Railway Museum, in Ely, Nevada by Lisa DeLacy

You may have heard that we are researching what it will take to nominate Railtown 1897 State Historic Park for a National Historic Landmark designation. National Historic Landmarks are buildings, sites, districts, structures and objects that have been determined by the Secretary of the Interior to be nationally significant. You might say "Of course the park is nationally significant, isn't that obvious?" All of us that work here, visit, and steward the park can feel this significance in our bones. However, establishing undeniable historical significance at a nationally recognized level has to be documented, and it requires research and review. The task can be daunting, but a National Historic Landmark listing can assist us in the preservation of the park, and can be an important marketing tool.

I thought I might use this column to explain how we are going to go about how you get a listing on the National Register of Historic Landmarks (NHL) or at least on the National Historic Register (NHR). But first, many of you may not be aware that our Hetch Hetchy RR bus #19 is already listed on the National Historic Register. So, what does that mean? I decided to check with a National Historic Landmark "horse's mouth." The Nevada Northern Railway Museum at Ely, NV, had attained that status in 2006, with National Historic Landmark District Landmark District designation for 39 buildings, 77 other structures and its historic locomotives and railcars. So I called their museum director, Mark Bassett, and here's our conversation:

LD: Was getting the NHL status easy?

MB: (lots of laughter) No, it was very comprehensive. Our nomination was about 200 pages long. The original survey was 72 pages. We have 39 buildings, 77 structures, and our historic locomotives and railcars listed on the NHL. After you finish the nomination form, then you have a review period.

LD: What did your staff and volunteers regard as the biggest advantage of the NHL designation?

MB: Well, for quite a while we were able to claim that we were the newest National Historic Landmark in the country (laughter). The status gives you bragging rights, and it is such a high honor. It changed the point of view of our volunteers. Whereas before they wouldn't think about the wall when posting a sign, now they won't put a thumbtack in that wall. It generated awareness and a great sense of pride that we share with visitors. There are just over 2,500 National Historic Landmarks in the country and they are sites that are designated as significant to all of American ➔

⇒ History. Other sites include Mount Vernon, the Smithsonian Institution Building, and the Monument at Bunker Hill.

LD: Has it (NHL) increased visitation?

MB: As you know, we are very remotely located. But yes, having the National Historic Landmark status helps convince folks to drive out here, it gives an added incentive to make the effort and take on the expense because they can see that this is a place that is special to the history of the nation.

LD: Has it increased financial support for your Museum?

MB: Definitely! We can now put that status on our letterhead and use it in our marketing. It puts us in good standing with people that want to donate to a worthy cause.

LD: Finally, was it worth it?

MB: Absolutely! We recently had a Bentley car club from London visit. They all shipped their 1920's era Bentleys to the Bay Area. They had a choice of either touring Las Vegas, or Ely. They chose to come visit us because of our National Historic Landmark Status. Here I was with 68 people from Great Britain, folks whose houses are often 700 years old or more. They kept asking me, "Is this building authentic?" or "Is this locomotive authentic?". The authenticity and integrity of the site was extremely important to them. I recently received a card from the group, and they said that our Museum (Railyards) was beyond their wildest dreams.

In the near future, we hope to follow in the footsteps of the Nevada Northern Railway Museum in Ely, NV, and many other important sites. It's important to remember that because the park is designated as 'eligible' it has the same protections as if it were actually listed, so it is important that we always follow the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties. For more information: http://www.cr.nps.gov/local-law/arch_stnds_8_2.htm



Railtown News

Railtown Parade Float wins 1st Prize in the Motherlode Parade!

Railtown was awarded 1st Prize in the Round Up Parade! The award, 'The Tuolumne Cup' is the top prize and is awarded by the event sponsors, the Tuolumne County Sheriff's Posse. Thank you to the following volunteers who prepared, coordinated or otherwise rode on the float: Allan Nordstrom, Cliff Hughes, Jeanette Foster, Wayne Weilburg, Dieter & Jeannie Teschke, Janet Montano and Al Tunsen. The float which is owned by Al Lehr and decorated by volunteers has been in many parades and won numerous awards.



Dave Connery To Give Talk on The Angels Branch

For those interested, Dave Connery will be giving a talk at the Tuolumne County Historical Society's June Meeting. His talk will be on the Angels Branch and will be a completely different presentation than the one he gave at their dinner in April. The meeting is at 7 PM on Thursday, June 13th at the County Library on Greenley Road in Sonora. Admission is free and everyone is welcome.

Singing Rails To Feature Music Competition This Year

Our 4th Annual Singing Rails Festival will be held Saturday, August 3rd this year and features Sourdough Slim and bluegrass band Red Dog Ash. In addition, we are adding music competitions featuring contestants in the following categories: Vocal, guitar, fiddle, banjo, mandolin and miscellaneous. Cash prizes will be offered plus an award for the best vocally generated train sound!

(remember Box Car Willy?)

This is What it's All About!

This note was sent in with a check for \$50:

"I was in Jamestown May 21st and visited (spur of the moment decision) before 10am. Staff and Volunteers were so warm and friendly I grabbed a brochure so I could mail a donation after I got home"

Volunteer Profiles— Tommy Johnson

This month we'd like everyone to say hello to Tommy Johnson and his lovely wife Susi. They recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary! Tommy has been involved at Railtown since 2002 as a volunteer. Although Susi has never officially volunteered she is a supporter of our park and is often seen with Tommy in the care and feeding of our roses near the flag pole. They first met in college theater in the Bay Area. Since permanently moving to Tuolumne County in 2004 from Chatsworth they have also been active volunteers at SRT and Stage 3 in Sonora, working primarily in set design and lighting. In their off times they love to camp at the beach or up in the mountains.

"It was Bill Gillaspie and Robert Staggs who suggested I become a Car Host at Railtown. After retiring from the Santa Fe Railroad as a locomotive engineer after 33 years it looked too much like my old job! But it looked like a lot of fun and all I had to do was talk to the visitors." Since then, Tommy has logged many volunteer hours annually and works primarily as a conductor or brakeman. He was 18 when he started working as a brakeman for the Santa Fe Railroad in 1951 and may well be our most senior railroader on our volunteer staff. I asked Tommy what he likes most about Railtown. "It's great to be a part of re-creating the history of the steam era. I like what Kim Baker said "we are working at a lost art, re-creating the look and feel of the steam era." It was really exciting to me when we took our train to Sonora last Christmas. Here I am riding a steam engine hauling an old wooden caboose as a conductor at almost 80 years old, and realizing that's how I started in railroading back in 1951!" We'd all like to thank Tommy and Susi for being part of our Railtown family.



JoAnne Stewart and Ann Pierson at the Window



David Ethier and Don Slifert on the Model T



First Railtown Brakeman's Academy



Volunteer Field Trip To Castle Air Museum



Mike Tindall, Garrett Hanford and Ron Konklin



Hal Montano and Ray Harm on the new floor



PO Box 1250

Jamestown, CA 95327

Return Service Requested

TO:



Depot Store- (209) 984-3953

Volunteer Desk- (209) 984-4408

Volunteer Website- <http://railtown.team.parks.ca.gov/volunteers>

Railtown Blog- www.railtown1897.wordpress.com

Crew Caboose- (209) 984-0352



Railtown Paid and Volunteer Staff Contact Information

*Send newsletter submissions to the editor: Dave.Rainwater@parks.ca.gov
(all area codes are 209)*

Kim Baker , Park Superintendent	984-4622	Kim.Baker@parks.ca.gov
George Sapp , Railroad Restoration Lead Worker (DSLE)	774-6368	George.Sapp@parks.ca.gov
Lisa DeLacy , State Park Curator I (DER)	984-3119	Lisa.DeLacy@parks.ca.gov
Diana Fisher , Park Aid & Social Media	984-0352	Diana.Fisher@parks.ca.gov
Ryan Richelson , Maintenance Supervisor	984-3115	Ryan.Richelson@parks.ca.gov
Rob Buchanan , Park Maintenance Worker I	984-3115	Rob.Buchanan@parks.ca.gov
Danny Taylor , Park Maintenance Assistant	984-3115	Danny.Taylor@parks.ca.gov
Dave Rainwater , Senior Park Aid & Volunteer Coordinator	984-4408	Dave.Rainwater@parks.ca.gov
Carl Rudolph , Fire Patrol Coordinator	586-9905	cakr@sonnet.com
Karen Ethier , Ticket Agent Coordinator	471-7525	kmethier@gmail.com

Newsletter Available in Alternative Format on Request